DESCRIPTION OF LARVAL FORM AND NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORD FOR *TUCKERELLA HYPOTERRA* McDANIEL & MORIHARA (ACARI: TUCKERELLIDAE)[1]

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ABSTRACT: A description of the larvae of *Tuckerella hypoterra* McDaniel and Morihara is given. The distribution of *T. hypoterra* is extended to include southwestern Glasscock County, Texas.

Tuckerella hypoterra previously was described only from adult specimens collected in South Dakota and Colorado (McDaniel et al. 1975). In this paper a description of the larval stage is given and the distribution of *T. hypoterra* is extended to include Texas.

Tuckerella hypoterra McDaniel and Morihara

Larvae: Caudum with 5 pairs of whiplike setae (7 are present on the adults) arising from tuberclelike setal bases. Posterior half of each whiplike seta moniliform, pilose; anterior portion plumose as in adults. Posterodistal element of duplex setae on tarsus I absent, anterodistal element very large. Rostrum and palpi approximately equal in length, palpi well-developed, bearing two apical setae similar to those of adults; stylets recurved basally, rostrum with two vertical setae placed above coxae of palpi, similar in structure to adult, rostrum not completely covered by extension of gnathosoma. Dorsum with typical fan-shaped setae characteristic of adult except smaller, distribution same as in adult except for the opisthonotum which has only 20 fan-shaped setae, 6 in a transverse series behind the suture marking delineation of metapodosomatic and opisthosomatic regions, 6 setae on opisthosonotal margin (Fig. 1) (adults have 8 setae in this location); opisthonotum with 2 rows of 4 medial setae, posterior row smaller than all other dorsal fan-shaped setae, submedian pair placed anteriorly to outer lateral pair. Ventral region with only 2 pairs of pilose seta, anal region with 3 pairs of pilose setae.

Habitat: The Texas specimens of *T. hypoterra* were collected 19 September 1981 in southwestern Glasscock County on the Wilkerson Ranch, 10 miles south of Garden City and 1.5 miles west of State Highway 33. The county lies in an econtonal region of the Southern High Plains and the Edwards Plateau characterized by a subtropical climate with annual averages of 16 inches of precipitation and 217 frost-free days. Soils at the collection site are silty clay loams of the Reagan Series; these are moderately alkaline, deep upland soils formed in calcereous loamy sediments of eolian origins. The habitat is heavily grazed rangeland dominated by a mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.) overstory and broomweed (*Xanthocephalum* sp.) understory; thin stands of grasses interspersed on exposed soil provide the only other

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vegetation. These conditions, particularly the extensive broomweed understory, reflect the proximity of a nearby windmill where cattle concentrate for water and thereby cause considerable disturbance to the range community.

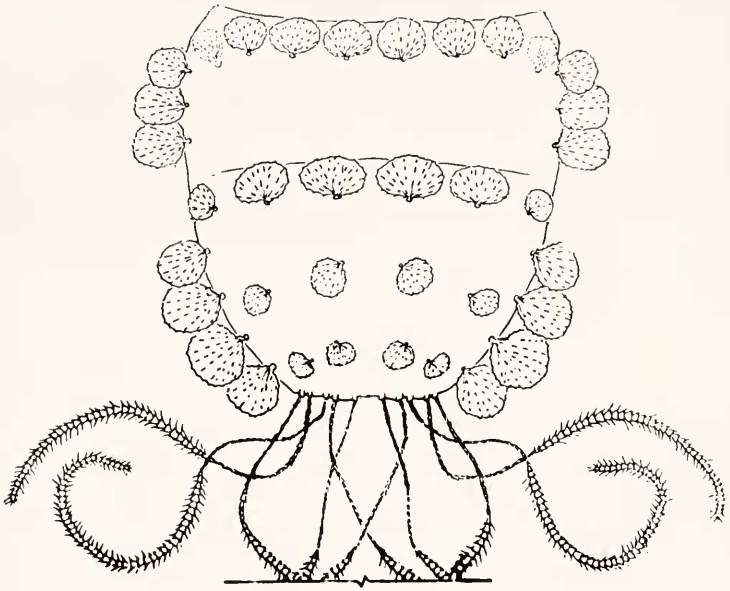

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Fig. 1. *Tuckerella hypoterra* McDaniel and Morihara Larval Opisthonotum.

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